

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell comprising:
 - a first planar manifold defined between a first gas-impermeable element and an active element;
 - a plurality of spacers disposed within said first planar manifold, each of said plurality of said spacers and said first gas-impermeable element having an orifice formed therethrough;
 - a second planar manifold defined between said first gas-impermeable element and a second gas-impermeable element in a subjacent relationship to said first planar manifold;
 - wherein a flow path is established from said second planar manifold, through said orifice, across said active element, and back into said first planar manifold.

2. (Original) The fuel cell of claim 1 further comprising an electrically conductive path extending through the fuel cell to provide continuity from said active element, through said plurality of spacers and said first gas-impermeable element to said second gas-impermeable element.

3. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 2 wherein said plurality of spacers are electrically conductive so as to establish said electrically conductive path.

4. (Original) The fuel cell of claim 3 wherein said electrically conductive path further comprises an electrically conductive filler disposed in a via formed through said first gas-impermeable element.

5. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 1 wherein said first gas-impermeable element is disposed in a substantially parallel spaced relation to said second gas-impermeable element such that said first planar manifold is substantially parallel with said second planar manifold.

6. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 1 further comprising a second plurality of spacers disposed within said second planar manifold.

7. (Original) The fuel cell of claim 1 wherein said plurality of spacers comprise a nested array of spacers disposed on said first gas-impermeable element.

8. (Original) The fuel cell of claim 1 further comprising a frame interposed between said first gas-impermeable element and said second gas-impermeable element.

9. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 1 wherein said plurality of spacers are equidistantly spaced on said first gas-impermeable element within said first planar manifold.

10. – 49. (Cancelled)

50. (New) The fuel cell of claim 1 wherein said active element comprises a flow-interfering medium.

51. (New) The fuel cell of claim 6 further comprising an electrically conductive path extending through the fuel cell to provide continuity from said active element through said plurality of spacers, said first gas-impermeable element, said second plurality of spacers, and said second gas-impermeable element.

52. (New) The fuel cell of claim 51 wherein said plurality of spacers and said second plurality of spacers are electrically conductive.

53. (New) The fuel cell of claim 52 wherein said electrically conductive path further comprises an electrically conductive filler disposed in a via formed through each of said first and second gas-impermeable elements.

54. (New) The fuel cell of claim 6 wherein a subset of said second plurality of spacers are at least partially superposed over an area defined by a subjacent spacer of said plurality of spacers with said first gas-impermeable element interposed therebetween.

55. (New) The fuel cell of claim 6 wherein a subset of said second plurality of spacers are completely superposed over an area defined by a subjacent spacer of said plurality of spacers with said first gas-impermeable element interposed therebetween.

56. (New) The fuel cell of claim 6 wherein a subset of said second plurality of spacers comprises a superposed spacer over an area defined in part by a pair of subjacent spacers of said plurality of spacers.

57. (New) The fuel cell of claim 6 further comprising a frame circumscribing said second plurality of spacers.

58. (New) The fuel cell of claim 57 further comprising a header formed in said frame and in fluid communication with one of said first planar manifold and said second planar manifold.

59. (New) The fuel cell of claim 58 further comprising a set of runners formed in said frame between said header and one of said first planar manifold and said second planar manifold.

60. (New) The fuel cell of claim 6 wherein each spacer of said plurality of spacers comprise a disk with said orifice formed at a center thereof.

61. (New) The fuel cell of claim 6 wherein each of said first and second gas-impermeable elements comprise polyimide film.

62. (New) The fuel cell of claim 6 wherein each spacer in said plurality of spacers and said second plurality of spacers comprise stainless steel elements.

63. (New) The fuel cell of claim 6 wherein said second plurality of spacers comprise a nested array of spacers.